

Information for Candidates Who Have Completed a Pharmacy Degree Outside Canada and the USA - Steps to Becoming a Licensed Pharmacist in Canada

If you wish to become a licensed pharmacist in Canada, you must first go through the **PEBC (Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada) certification process for international pharmacy graduates**. There are 3 major steps (with some sub-steps in between as outlined below) to achieving PEBC pharmacist certification.

Note: This document contains informal suggestions based on inquiries we have received in our Admissions office. Some of the information below has been excerpted from the PEBC website (www.pebc.ca) and Pharmacists' Gateway Canada site (www.pharmacistsgatewaycanada.ca) – refer to these sites for full details and official up-to-date information.

You must follow these steps:

Step 1: DOCUMENT EVALUATION – You must pass the evaluation of your educational and professional credentials to be eligible to take the computer-based Pharmacist **Evaluating Examination**. See www.pebc.ca for full details – click on 'Pharmacists' and then on 'International Graduates'. You will see the 3 main steps outlined along with links for more detailed information.

Sub-step 1 - You must first create a Profile (done online) through 'Pharmacists' Gateway Canada' see www.pharmacistsgatewaycanada.ca for full details.

Sub-step 2- Once you have created your 'Profile' it is recommended (but not required as part of the formal process to obtain a licence in Canada) to use the '**Readiness Self-Assessment**' tool. This will help you assess your readiness for Pharmacy practice in Canada.

Sub-step 3 – Enrol to Start the Licensure Process. From the 'step 3' page of the Pharmacists' Gateway site, click on 'Enrol' which appears in the blue navigation bar. This step is required to obtain your National ID number which will be used for identification purposes throughout the licensure process. Once enrolled you will be able to access information about your progress.

Sub-step 4 – Once you have enrolled (as in #3 above) it is recommended (but not required as part of the formal process to obtain a licence in Canada) to use the '**Pharmacy Practice Skills and Knowledge Self-Assessment Tool**' to help you identify areas where additional education and training may be required to meet Canadian standards.

STEP 2: THE PHARMACIST EVALUATING EXAMINATION - you must pass this computer-based examination to be eligible for the Pharmacist Qualifying Examination.

STEP 3: THE PHARMACIST QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, PART I (MCQ) AND PART II (OSCE) – Your final step to qualifying for certification with PEBC. When you have passed both Parts of the examination you will be certified and registered with PEBC.

Refer to 'Frequently Asked Questions' next page

Frequently Asked Questions

I am confused and overwhelmed by the information on the websites. Can someone meet with me and walk me through the entire process?

We understand that there is a lot of detailed information involved in the evaluation/certification process. However, please note that at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, we cannot provide advice/answers regarding matters related to the PEBC requirements and processes. Information related to equivalency of degree programs, required documents, and how to prepare for the PEBC exams must be obtained directly from PEBC. After carefully reading all information provided on the PEBC (and Pharmacists' Gateway) website, if you require further detail or clarification on any of the steps regarding PEBC certification, please contact PEBC directly via phone (416-979-2431), e-mail (pebcinfo@pebc.ca), fax (416) 599-9244 or mail at 717 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4W 2M4 (note this is a mailing address only - PEBC is unable to accommodate in-person inquiries).

Can I take courses through the University of Toronto to help me prepare for the PEBC exams?

The University of Toronto does not offer individual courses designed for internationally trained pharmacists as they prepare for the PEBC exams. However, if you have successfully completed the PEBC Pharmacist Evaluating Examination you may consider the **IPG (International Pharmacy Graduate) Program** which is an academic bridging program administered through the School of Continuing Studies. This program consists of modules designed to assist pharmacists trained in countries outside Canada to meet Canadian entry-to-practice requirements. Please refer to <https://learn.utoronto.ca/programs-courses/health-and-social-sciences/pharmacy/international-pharmacy-graduate-program> for information related to the IPG program, including application process, fees, dates etc.

Alternatively, if you have successfully completed the PEBC Pharmacist Evaluating Exam, you may consider the **PharmD for Pharmacists** program - a program specifically designed for experienced pharmacists and recent graduates who have a Bachelors' (or equivalent) in Pharmacy degree and wish to obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. However, if you are an internationally trained pharmacist intending to become licensed to work as a pharmacist in Canada, the PharmD for Pharmacists program may not be the best program for you. The International Pharmacy Graduate program (mentioned above) may be more appropriate. You may obtain further information at <https://pharmacy.utoronto.ca/programs-and-admissions/pharmd-for-pharmacists/>.

Although there are no individual courses which are specifically designed to help you prepare for the PEBC examinations it is possible to apply as a Special Non-Degree student to take individual courses which are offered as part of the PharmD program. Information on applying as a Special Non-Degree student can be requested by e-mailing s.parna@utoronto.ca. In all cases it is advised that you consult with PEBC to identify the most appropriate courses or alternative methods of preparation for a first or subsequent PEBC Exam attempt.

Note: Regardless of the path you choose, you are limited to 4 attempts in the PEBC Qualifying Examination, including any/all previous unsuccessful attempts.

What if I do not want to go through the PEBC certification process and, instead, wish to start over and complete another entry-to-practice Pharmacy degree in Canada?

In this case it is not necessary to go through the PEBC evaluation process as noted above. However, this would not be the recommended path as it would take 4 years of full-time study to complete another degree, if admitted, and upon graduation you still must successfully complete the PEBC Qualifying Examination within your remaining allowable number of attempts (i.e. including any/all previous unsuccessful attempts). The recommended path is to go through the PEBC evaluation process, and then enrol in the IPG program noted above if you have not been successful in the Qualifying Exam after your first attempt. Only if your degree is not recognized, or if you were unsuccessful in the Evaluating Exam within the maximum allowable number of attempts, would it be necessary to complete another entry-to-practice Pharmacy degree. If you have already used the maximum allowable number of 4 attempts in the Qualifying Exam, completion of another degree will not qualify for additional test attempts.

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What if I want to continue my education in a graduate program?

In this case, it is not necessary to go through the PEBC evaluation process as noted above, unless you are applying to a professional graduate program, such as the new MScPhm program at University of Toronto. For the MScPhm program you must go through the PEBC certification process, but for other research intensive programs (MSc and PhD), the School of Graduate Studies would determine if they will recognize your degree for admission purposes. See <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/admissions/admission-requirements/> for information related to the requirements of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, or e-mail them at admissions.sgs@utoronto.ca for general admissions inquiries not answered on the SGS website. Note, however, that graduate programs are not professional designations (i.e. they are not the credential recognized for licensure) and will not qualify you to write the PEBC exams or to practise as a pharmacist.